

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 02220 250933Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 DPW-01  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-08  
OMB-01 /107 W

-----251006 040338 /10

R 250825Z FEB 77

FM AMCONGEN HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3909  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2220

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, IN

SUBJECT: NEW INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON VIETNAM

REF: A) NEW DEHLI 1834 NOTAL, B) NEW DELHI 1965 NOTAL

1. NEWLY APPOINTED INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO SRV, M.R. SIVARAMA-KRISHNAN, ENROUTE TO POST MET WITH CONGENOFF AND BRIEFLY DISCUSSED INDIAN VIEWS ON VIETNAM. WITH REGARD TO THE FEBRUARY VISIT OF THE VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL ENVOY PHAN HIEN, (REPORTED IN REFTELS) THE AMBASSADOR WAS SOMEWHAT RETICENT BUT DID SAY THAT THE MEETINGS, WHICH HE ATTENDED, MAINLY CONCERNED VIETNAMESE INTEREST IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. THE VIETNAMESE REPORTEDLY WANTED TO LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE INDIANS WHAT ECONOMIC PROJECTS WERE MOST USEFUL AND HOW THEY MIGHT MOST EASILY BE ACQUIRED. HE NOTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE VISITED SEVERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND WERE OBVIOUSLY HOPEFUL OF RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM MANY NATIONS INCLUDING INDIA.

2. SIVARAMAKRISHNAN BELIEVED, BASED ON HIS CONVERSATIONS  
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WITH THE VIETNAMESE, THAT THEY WERE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE MEMBERS OF ASEAN IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CONCERNING THAILAND, HE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE INFORMED HIM THAT "THEY HAD NOT CLOSED ANY BRIDGES" (SIC) AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE PATIENCE WITH THE THAIS. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS OWN CONCERN OVER THE RECENT COURSE OF THAI POLICY AND IN PARTICULAR THE THAI DEFENSE MINISTER'S ALLEGATIONS OF A

PLANNED VIETNAMESE ATTACK ON THAILAND. HE READILY RECOGNIZED THAT GIVEN PRESENT ATTITUDES IN THE UNITED STATES, THE RETURN OF US FORCES TO THAILAND WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE AND VIETNAMESE FEARS IN THAT REGARD WERE ACCORDINGLY UNFOUNDED. HE FELT THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN ISOLATED FOR A LONG TIME AND DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD BUT WOULD CHANGE QUICKLY AS THEY MOVED INTO THE POST WAR PERIOD.

3. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR SIVARAMAKRISHNAN APPEARED CORDIAL THROUGHOUT THE MEETING AND PROMISED TO VISIT US AGAIN ON HIS NEXT TRIP TO HONG KONG. HE REFERED TO HIS VERY USEFUL MEETING WITH EA/VLC DIRECTOR ROSENTHAL IN WASHINGTON AND WHILE HE IS OBVIOUSLY NOT "PRO-AMERICAN", HE SEEMS FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE ENOUGH AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING HIS VIEWS WHEN HE RETURNS FROM HANOI.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** NEW INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON VIETNAM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, VN, IN, (SIVARAMAKRISHNAN, M R)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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